trust of India has informed that beginning from 1991-92 the Trust has made investments through private placement to the tune of Rs. 20180 crore. The details are as follows:

	(Rs. Crore)
Debt	18622
Equity	1558
TOTAL:	20180

(b) According to Unit Trust of India it is not aware of any such allegations.

(c) As per provisions of Section 11(g) of the SEBI Act, 1992, the insider trading in securities is prohibited.

According of Section 15(g) of the SEBI Act, 1992, there is a provision of monetary penalty upto Rs. Five lakh. The SEBI has also a regulation on Insider Trading called SEBI (Insider Trading) Regulations, 1992 where the following provisions have been made:—

(i) directing the insider not to deal in Securities in any particular manner.

(ii) prohibiting the insider from disposing of any of the Securities acquired in violation of these regulations.

(iii) restraining the insider to communicate or counsel any person to deal in security.

Soarting Prices of Essential Commodities

985. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government had announced a set of measures to check the soaring prices of essential commodities on 31st October, 1998; and

(b) if so; the details thereof and the impact it has made on the prices?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government announced a set of policy changes to increase availability of essential commodities and control prices. The important changes were;

— abolition of 10% duty on import of pulses.

— Exemption of 4% SAD on oil import by vanaspati manufacturers.

— NAFED was asked to procure onion for subsidised sale.

— Committee of Secretaries (COS) under Cabinet Secretary would meet regularly to watch price situation.

Implementation of Revival Scheme of RBL

986. SHRI MD. SALIM:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether United Bank of India is yet to implement the revival scheme of Reyrolle Burns Limited (RBL) sanctioned by BIFR on 16th October, 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government to provide additional funds to finalise the gap as stipulated in the revival scheme; and

(c) if not, the status of implementation of the scheme by United Bank of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that a revival scheme of M/s Reyrolle Burns Ltd. (RBL) was sanctioned under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 on 15.10.1997. United Bank of India (UBI) has reported that the bank has not made any commitment for extending fresh working capital to RBL and therefore the United Bank of India (UBI) has not released the working capital requirements as envisaged under the Sanctioned Scheme.

As reported by BIFR, Government of India has released an amount of Rs. 213.39 lakhs to the company as portion of their commitment.

Shortage of Bench Members in BIFR

987. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revival schemes of the sick industries are getting affected/ delayed because of shortage of bench members in BIFR; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far to increase the strength of bench members in BIFR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) There are presently three Members in BIFR. Action has been initiated for appointing more Members.

प्रतिव्यक्ति आर्थिक बोझ

988. **श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे:** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) देश में मझौले और गरीब श्रेणी के लोगों पर राज्य-वार प्रतिव्यक्ति कितना-कितना आर्थिक बोझ है;

(ख) 31 मार्च, 1947, 1957, 1967, 1977, 1987 और 1998 की स्थिति के अनुसार इसके तुलनात्मक और सूचकांक संबंधी आंकड़ों के रूप में इसका राज्य-वार प्रतिशत कितना है;

(ग) क्या उनके सीमित साधनों और बढ़ते आर्थिक बोझ की तुलना करते हुए उनके जीवन स्तर के संबंध में कोई मूल्यांकन किया गया है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो गत पांच दशकों का दशक-वार ब्यौरा क्या है?

वित्त मंत्री (श्री यशवंत सिन्हा): (क) से (घ) प्रश्न में मझौले और निचली श्रेणी के लोगों पर प्रति व्यक्ति वार्षिक वित्तीय बोझ के संबंध में पिछले 50 वर्षों की राज्य-वार सूचना मांगी गई है। सूचना एकत्र करने के प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं।

Losses Suffered by Investors

989. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has asked the Finance Ministry to track and prosecute the unscrupulous promoters who made innocent investor lose thousands of crores in the last couple of years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that investors suffered the largest losses in equity issues that were managed by big merchant banks such as State Bank of India Caps, IDBI, PNB Caps and J.M. Financial;

(d) if so, the details in this regard, and

(e) the details of action taken/being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister has expressed concern regarding unscrupulous promoters exploiting the investors and has suggested that punitive action should be taken against them.

(c) and (d) Investment in equity is subject to market risks. The Merchant banker has to ensure that all correct and truthful disclosures are made by the issuer so that investors take informed decisions. SEBI regulates the funcitons of the Merchant Banker.

(e) As per information furnished by SEBI, it had forwarded details of 17 companies that came out with public issues in 1994-95 and 1997-98 and were not traceable. Department of Company Affairs has initiated action under Section 146 of the Companies Act.